

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 3, with the following:

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A. The components comprising the image processing device and the image processing method of the present invention may be realized by special hardware circuits or programmed computer. Furthermore, when the present invention is realized by programmed computer, the programs which operate the computer may be provided on a computer-readable recording medium (e.g., floppy disk, CD-ROM and the like). In this case a program recorded on a computer-readable recording medium normally is transferred to and recorded on a hard disk. The program also may be provided as independent ~~applicaiton software~~ application software. Furthermore, the program may be incorporated in the software of the computer as one function of the computer.

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